

VIRTUAL MEETING – November 5, 2020
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN’S SERVICES ACT
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137
Richmond, VA 23229

Members Present: Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Shannon Updike, SLAT Vice-Chair, VCOPPA; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Laura Reed, DMAS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; The Honorable Richard Campbell, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Angela Neely, CPMT – School Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Rebecca Vinroot, CPMT – local DSS Representative

Members Absent: Martha Carroll, CPMT – local CSU Representative

OCS Staff Members Present: Scott Reiner, Zandra Relaford

Welcome/Opening

Lesley Abashian called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Mr. Reiner noted that in accordance with state law governing meetings of public bodies during the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19, the SLAT is meeting virtually and the meeting is being recorded. Additionally, all votes must be taken via roll call.

Attendance of SLAT members on the call was taken by roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment offered.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Em Parente, seconded by Lisa Madron and approved by roll call vote by a majority of the members present.

SLAT Member Survey Results

Ms. Abashian reported on the responses to the survey of SLAT members that was recently conducted. Items of interest included potential new agenda items and a SLAT orientation process for new members. The survey is still open for feedback.

Update on the SB734 Residential Placements Workgroup

Mills Jones presented an update on the work of the DBHDS-led work group reviewing the process of approval of psychiatric residential placements and barriers to timely approval of these placements (HB728/SB734).

Highlights included:

- Focus on three areas: IACCT processes; CSA and FAPT processes, and identifying placements with three subgroups addressing each of those areas.
- Each subgroup identified a list of challenges and potential solutions to those challenges. Mr. Jones presented details concerning these challenges.

- The report to the General Assembly is due before the end of the year.

Brief discussion ensued about several possible recommendations.

A written summary from Mr. Jones will be distributed with the meeting minutes.

Status of System of Care/Parent Support Partners Funding

Nina Marino presented an updated on this issue in light of the end of the federal SAMHSA System of Care grant at the end of September 2020. Although the grant ended, much of the work is continuing including High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)/Intensive Care Coordination training. A “no-cost” extension was secured to allow unspent funds to continue through June 30, 2021. This will be used to support the Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center (VWIC); Family Support Partner training; and conversion of training to virtual delivery.

Ms. Marino discussed the long-term plan to have HFW covered through Medicaid. In the interim CSA continues to be the main funding source for this evidence-based service.

SEC Strategic Plan Work Groups Updates

- SEC Policy Review and Alignment – Scott Reiner reported that this work group met for the first time in October and receiving an orientation as well as presentations on policy review through equity and trauma-informed lenses. The group decided to look at the SEC’s family engagement policy as its first focus. The group will be meeting every other month.
- Core Leadership Competencies for Local CSA Leaders – Jessica Webb reported on behalf of the work group. Much progress is being made and the hope is to have a draft to the SLAT in February. The group is developing competencies for CSA coordinators, FAPT members, and CPMT members and resources to accompany those.
- Development of Guide for Youth and Families – Cristy Corbin reported on behalf of the work group. They have been meeting monthly except for September. Ms. Corbin reported that the work group is finalizing a survey for parents who have and have not accessed CSA. The survey will be distributed, hopefully in the next two weeks, through the Virginia Family Network and the High Fidelity Wraparound workforce in order to capture a variety of input. The work group is also collecting any existing local guides to help make use of existing resources to inform the development of the final Guide.
- Implementation and Support of Outcome-Driven Practices – Scott Reiner reported that OCS continues the process of surveying state agencies concerning their collection and reporting of outcomes data and asked for assistance from the agencies that have not yet submitted their information.

OCS Report

Zandra Relaford provided the report for the Office of Children’s Services including:

- Recap of the CSA Annual Conference – Mrs. Relaford reported that the annual CSA Conference took place on October 29 – 30 via virtual delivery. There were close to 1,000 participants, the largest ever for a CSA Conference. Feedback has been extremely positive. The virtual program is available on the Virginia Tech CSA Conference website. Recordings of the sessions will be available on the CSA website in the near future.
- JLARC Study of CSA – The JLARC report on the CSA will be released on November 16, 2020.
- OCS Office Hours – Zandra described a new initiative, *Virtual Office Hours*, on the 3rd Friday of each month, being at 9:00 AM on November 20, 2020. OCS staff will make themselves available

to engage in discussion with local CSA stakeholders. Different topics/staff will rotate each month.

- FY2020 Data is Complete – All CSA data for FY2020 is now complete and all reports are updated through the end of FY2020 on the CSA website: www.csa.virginia.gov.

Member Updates

SLAT members provide relevant updates from their agencies/groups.

- Linda McWilliams (DJJ) – highlighted efforts to maintain contact and engagement between youth and families and virtual training for staff.
- Em Parente (DSS) – discussed 1) the new mandated reporter portal as an online alternative to the CPS hotline. Now in “soft” opening with messaging going out to the field. This alternative is not designed for the public as reports cannot be made anonymously and may require a call back. 2) The state budget contains 100% federal funding through TANF to provide additional (\$200/month) support to relatives who are caring for children as an alternative to entering foster care. There are criteria to be eligible for this additional support. This support will begin on November 1, 2020. 3) Potential legislation about making it easier for relatives to become foster parents (re: barrier crimes).
- Nina Marino (DBHDS) – 1) STEP-VA funding has been re-allotted in the budget emerging from the Special Session of the General Assembly (approximately \$30 million) pending the Governor’s approval. 2) Virginia Mental Health Access Project (VMAP) has also had funding restored effective January 1, 2021 for statewide expansion. 3) DBHDS is working on standard training model/package for mobile crisis services for children. 4) Briefly discussed the new Marcus Alert model emerging from the General Assembly.
- Laura Reed (DMAS) – 1) Funding for Phase 1 of the proposed Behavioral Health Enhancement, a rate increase for outpatient providers, and a rate increase for children’s psychiatric residential treatment facilities has been restored in the budget emerging from the Special Session of the General Assembly pending the Governor’s approval. 2) A Managed Care Organization (MCO) resolution initiative is being implemented to address provider concerns. 3) Solicitation for “fee-for-service” administration (currently held by Magellan) is delayed. 4) Collaborative activities around Family First Prevention Services Act implementation and the Children’s Residential Work Group. 5) New data dashboards are under development.
- Sabrina Gross (DOE) – 1) JLARC is studying special education, report pending. 2) Federal DOE improvement plan. 3) Ongoing training on restraint and seclusion for local school divisions with new regulations taking effect 1/1/2021.
- Rebecca Vinroot (LDSS) – 1) Working on making sure essential functions are being met across the full scope of LDSS responsibilities (e.g., benefits, services to children and families). 2) Continued focus on supporting relative caregivers, including Commission on Youth activities around guardianship.
- Mills Jones (CSA Coordinators) – New Chair of CSA Coordinators group, Julie Payne from Roanoke City. Restructuring to become more formalized.
- Lisa Madron (CSB) – 1) CSBs are taking availability of opportunities through telehealth, as well as slowly reinstating in-person services. 2) Responding to various audits, legislative initiatives, efforts to support wellness/prevention efforts.
- Richard Campbell (J & DR Courts) – 1) Foster children who need out-of-state placements due to extreme needs having long delays. Use of detention (when delinquent charges are present) or other less than desirable options while placements are pending. 2) CPS related removals are down during COVID-19. Concern about what will happen once things return “to normal.”

- Cristy Corbin (Parent) – 1) Virginia Family Network has developed a Family Support Partner Network that has now been expanded to other parent leaders, including FAPT and CPMT parent representatives.
- Shannon Updike (Private Providers) – 1) VCOPPA Critical Issues Symposium (Dec 2 – 3) virtual.
- Angie Neely (Schools) – VCASE had their Fall virtual conference two weeks ago. Schools are gradually opening up in Virginia. Many are bringing students back this month. Special Education is addressing students' needs for COVID Recovery Services due to schools being closed last spring. Work continues despite the pandemic.
- Lesley Abashian (Local Government) – Big issues are use of CARES Act to meet needs; virtual services and when to return to the office.

Adjournment

The virtual meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2021.